

## **Foston Parish Council**

ANNUAL REPORT 2018/2019

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### **MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS AND COMPLETED PROJECTS**

#### **Chairman's Summary**

We started this financial year with three vacancies on the Parish Council, which did not bode well for the village, following the resignation of Cllr Ian Hesford. Despite many advertisements for new councillors none were forthcoming at the beginning of the year. Fortunately things changed with the successful applications from Emma Marshall and Claude Preira who were co-opted to join Foston Parish Council in May. That still left us with one vacancy at the end of the year.

The Council is now working to improve the facilities on the playing field, and we have had a few joint meetings with the Village Hall Committee and the Scouting Groups. The Parish Council's website, playing field and the state of the roads continue to be our main focus.

**Website:** Our website continues to grow and we offer advertising space to all residents running a business from home. We would advise everybody to take a look at the website when they have a few moments to spare because there is a wealth of information on the "Useful Information" section. We also have some Parish History, Archaeology, Flora and Fauna and Geology plus much more.

**The Emergency Plan:** The Plan for the Parish is now complete and filed with Lincolnshire County Council Emergency Planning Department. We will need to update it on a yearly basis. And we continue to work in conjunction with Steve Harris at Lincolnshire County Council's Emergency Planning & Business Continuity Service. We had an Emergency Plan simulation exercise at the beginning of the year

**30 mph Wheelie Bin Stickers:** The Parish Council has a few more speed limit reminder stickers for wheelie bins.

**Finance:** The year's precept was £11,013. Grants received included £814 for village cleaning.

**Key Council Expenditure:** The Playing Field mowing and maintenance plus ongoing removal of Japanese knotweed are continuing expenses and staff costs were £2824.00, insurance came to £341.00.

This year the Parish Council purchased and installed a new picnic bench at the Playing Field and also acquired two dog waste bins.

Again this year we have had the River Witham water analysed for quality. The Parish Council continue to provide Wi-Fi at the Village Hall for users to access. We have provided grants totalling £1200 to community organisations to assist with running costs.

**Section 137 Grants:** Grants were awarded to the uniformed groups of the Scouts, and Guiding Associations. The Conservation Group, the Village Hall, and St Peter's Church also received grants. The grants for the Church are to help with grass cutting costs to keep the Churchyard looking neat and tidy.

**Meetings:** Foston Parish Council has had six Parish Council Meetings during the year and one extraordinary meeting along with the Annual Parish Meeting. We continue to have joint informal meetings with the Scouting Groups and the Village Hall Committee.

**Planning:** There have been no major building developments this year. Where there have been applications they have been minor alterations and extensions.

**Dogs:** Most of us love dogs but some of us do not pick up after them. There continues to be a problem with dog excrement within the village despite having purchased two new dog waste bins for Long Street. The main problem areas are Chapel Lane and the Viking Way.

#### **Playing Field:**

The Parish Council continues to invest in the Playing Field and the Parish Council is

focused on providing improved facilities for the playing field. Nothing came forward from Foston Parish Council, Foston Scouting Groups and the Village Hall's joint meetings to look at the varying options for the best way forward for the village. We are now looking to work with the Scouting groups.

**Neighbourhood Watch:** We do have an active group in the village and we would encourage everybody to join the Neighbourhood Watch scheme online. There have been a few burglaries, including Farm and outbuilding burglaries in the local area. It is possible for Insurance companies to reduced premiums to members of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme so maybe well worth joining.

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

We are still looking at the Playing Field for the next major project, which is to replace the changing facilities that were demolished in 2012 due to their not fit for purpose state. We continue to look at these possibilities with the Scouts with the view to produceing of a useful community building for the Village.

A Closed Circuit television (CCTV) for the village is another project we are working on. St Peters' Parochial Church Council (PCC) has agreed to allow the Parish Council to use the church tower as CCTV receptor.

Again we entered the Best Kept Village Competition in 2018. The first round of judging will be in May. We encourage you to get involved to keep verges and front gardens neat well-trimmed and tidy. We will need to keep public spaces tidy and clear of litter and we have just under a year to do it. The project will be led by our Councillor David Guy.

**CONCLUSION:** The Chairman wishes to thank all the members of the Village who give their time freely for the benefit of the Village. Their hard work is greatly appreciated and the village reaps the benefits. Thanks to all the members of the Parish Council, including our parish Clerk James Stanley and internal Auditor Patrick Traynor for their continued support and help throughout the year.

**Emails:** The Parish Council continues to collect email addresses so that important information and reminders as well as Newsletters can be circulated quickly within the village. To retain resident's privacy this information is emailed out as blind carbon copies. We would like to thank everybody for keeping the Parish Council up to date with their email addresses and if we have not got yours we would be most grateful if you would email it to the chairman.

Cllr. Mrs Christina M Lees,  
CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

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